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AROUND TOWN

"Hope is a discipline."

- Joe Davis, a performer at Powderhorn Park's MLK Day Celebration



Martin Luther King Day celebration at Powderhorn Park. It's Mizz Mercedes' Rondo Double Dutch!

Unhoused Residents and Housed Neighbors Respond to Multiple Encampment Fires Amidst Chronic Shortage of Safe Places to Seek Shelter

A growing network of community-led groups and outreach organizations are continuing to support unhoused residents transitioning into stable living conditions, while city, county and state governments are falling short.

By NENOOKAASI COALITION

Fires broke out at two Southside Minneapolis encampments within minutes of each other on January 6, 2025. On a day with below freezing temperatures, over 230 residents of these encampments were left searching for shelter after police cleared the camps.

According to Christin Crabtree, a local organizer who was assisting the response efforts, "at one camp residents were able to put out the fire and police subsequently evicted them. The fire destroyed the other camp and police evicted residents, letting only a few retrieve their belongings. In both cases, outreach and neighbors were prevented by MPD from helping our neighbors move and salvage what little they own."

A resident who asked to be identified as L stated, "This isn't the first time that multiple fires broke out around the same time and we were forced to move again. We have been facing constant harassment from strangers who want to do us harm. The source of the fires should really be looked into."

Several organizations provided meals, transportation, warming supplies and other resources,

however it proved to still be insufficient given the scale of the need. Around 55 residents were able to find adequate shelter for the night, leaving many still left facing the frigid elements outside.

"Sanctuary Supply Depot was able to provide tents, sleeping bags, and other survival supplies to more than 75 of our neighbors last night. Our hosts at GMCC (Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches) provided a temporary warming shelter, and community members showed up with food, coats, and other supplies," said Flannery Clark, an organizer with the mutual aid group.

Community members have been working with the Minneapolis City Council on "Housing First" policies that would help alleviate the compounding crises residents are facing. However, these measures have been met with resistance and vetoes from Mayor Jacob Frey, and they will still take time to be implemented if passed.

Both unhoused residents and organizers have expressed their concerns at recent government hearings about what the city can do to improve the housing cri-

sis. There is also concern about escalating rhetoric and violence in light of recent incidents being carried out by housed people, including attacks on residents of the St. Anne's Place shelter reported by CBS News in September. Data cited in the ABC News report "Why experts say some unhoused people are unfairly assumed to be dangerous" also shows that unhoused people are several times more likely to be victims of crime than the general population. We need city leadership to take unhoused residents' safety seriously and act with urgency to provide housing and resources for those who are struggling.

To learn more about Camp Nenookaasi and the ways you can help advocate for unsheltered people in our area, visit linktr.ee/campnenookaasi

Meet Ahmed Amin, South High School's New Principal

By LO NORVELL

This piece first appeared in *The Southerner*, a student-written and student-produced newspaper at South High School in Minneapolis. *The Southerner* can be found online at www.shsoutherner.net.

After years of tumultuous principal turnover, South has found its newest leader, Ahmed Amin, stepping up to the role. Having attended a Minneapolis Public School himself, Amin has been a part of the MPS community for years. Amin is ready to help improve South, the summit, with contagious hope for what South can become.

Amin moved to South Minneapolis when he was 12 along with his 5 siblings, one of which is a South graduate. While originally from Somalia, Amin spent part of his childhood in Ethiopia. Amin never had any formal education before coming to the United States. He speaks to the impact his father had on him and his siblings, emphasizing how he was a positive role model who lived his beliefs and principles. "My dad was never concerned about having more... It always seems like the people



COURTESY AHMED AMIN

who have the least, give the most." Growing up Amin's family didn't have a lot, as he lived in a shelter with his siblings for a period of time. He does, however, express how academic excellence was still extremely important to him and his siblings through his father's example. He ties this to his father's demonstration of service and

Continued on page 11...

Five Renowned Artists to Transform Midtown Greenway into Nation's Best Cultural Bikeway

By MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION

COURTESY MIDTOWN GREENWAY COALITION



The Midtown Greenway, a beloved urban bike trail, is set to become even more vibrant with the addition of five cultural murals created by a talented group of artists. This exciting project celebrates community, creativity, cultural diversity, and the power of public art to inspire and connect.

This work is funded in part

by the Minnesota Humanities Center with money from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund that was created with the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.

The murals will be completed by June 2025, thanks to the dedicated work of these remarkable artists:

Continued on page 5...

thealley

Alley Communications is a Not-For-Profit organization.

The Mission of Alley Communications is

- promoting art and culture,
- advocating for issues,
- building healthy community,
- facilitating deliberation,
- lifting every voice,
- documenting history,
- agitating for change,
- giving truth and democracy a jog forward.

Guided and Informed by:
Phillips residents

Governed by Directors: Steve Dreyer, Susan Gust, Kelly Morgan, and Cirien Saadeh

Operated by Editorial Leadership Committee: Mara Brooks, Laura Hulscher, Mary Ellen Kaluza, and Harvey Winje

Business Facilitated by: Erick Boustead

Production Facilitated by: Graphic Designer + Coordinator, Mattie Wong

Page Coordinators: Steve Dreyer and Daniel Dorff, VV News; EPIC News; MPNA News; Roberta Barnes, Back Page.

Social Media: Susan Gust, Cirien Saadeh

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Opinions in **the alley** newspaper and its social media are those of the authors and artists and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Alley Communications, its Board, Editorial Leadership Committee, or other neighbors or writers.

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Submissions due the 12th day of the previous month



Franklin Library News

By ARI BAUM-HOMMES

All information listed here is accurate as of January 12th, 2024. For the most recent information, check out the library website at www.hclib.org.

FRANKLIN LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	9 AM to 5 PM
Tuesday	12 PM to 8 PM
Wednesday	12 PM to 8 PM
Thursday	12 PM to 8 PM
Friday	9 AM to 5 PM
Saturday	9 AM to 5 PM
Sunday	12 PM to 5 PM

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

HOMEWORK HELP

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-7:30 PM
Saturdays, 1-5 PM

Find homework resources for K-12 students online and at all our libraries: history, language arts, math, science and more.

STEAM ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH (AGES 8+)

Wednesdays, 5-6 PM

Drop in for fun and creative STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, math) experiments and projects! Materials provided. Led by Franklin Library's Teen Tech Squad.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

MOVIE MATINEE

Every Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 PM

Watch popular films every week with your Franklin Library friends and neighbors! This program is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. Sponsor: Friends of the Hennepin County Library.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Second Wednesday of the month, 12:30-2 PM
Join Franklin Library staff for free coffee & conversations with neighbors. Next happening on February 12th.

HIV TESTING WITH RED DOOR CLINIC

Thursday, February 13th, 12-2 PM

Drop in and meet with Red Door Clinic for free, private Rapid HIV testing. Learn about HIV prevention and care, get help connecting to treatment and medical services, and pick up harm reduction supplies. No registration required. Collaborator: Red Door Clinic

ASK THE LIBRARY

Have a reference or library account question? You can chat, email, text, or call the library. Chat or email at www.hclib.org/contact, text to 612-400-7722, or call 612-543-KNOW (5669) to reach library staff by phone.

Español/Spanish: Llame o envíe un texto al 651-503-8013 para recibir ayuda en español.

Hmoob/Hmong: Hu losis text rau lub tsev nyeem ntawv ntawm 612-385-0886 txais kev pab hais lus Hmoob.

Soomaali/Somali: Caawimaad Soomaali ah, soo wac ama qoraal (text) usoo dir maktabada 612-235-1339.

Ari is a librarian at the Franklin Library.

Five Ways to be Smarter with Your Money in 2025

By JEAN CHALIFOUX KIELY, Director of Consumer Banking at Sunrise Banks



JAKE RYAN

Welcome to 2025! We are now about one month into the new year, which means you may now be at a crossroads when it comes to any resolutions you have made.

Resolutions centered around money and saving tend to rank high in popularity at the start of the year. Even if you have not laid out a plan yet to be wiser with your money, there is no reason to give up one month in. You can commit to changing your money habits at any time and at any level, and hopefully, you will see the benefits, both short-term and long-term, pay off.

Our team members at Sunrise Banks work with people who want to improve their financial habits all the time. With the right tools and strategies, you can create smart and easy ways to build your savings.

Here are five ways you can start to act now:

Automate Savings Contributions

Set up an automatic transfer from your checking account to a savings account as soon as your paycheck is deposited. Treat it like a bill you must pay. Start with a small amount and gradually increase it. This ensures that you are consistently saving, without the temptation to spend the money elsewhere.

Create an Emergency Fund

Commit to building or boosting an emergency fund by setting aside a fixed amount each month. Aim for at least three to six months' worth of living expenses. Start by focusing on saving small amounts, and once the fund is established, shift attention to other financial goals like retirement or investments.

Review Subscriptions and Memberships

Go through your subscriptions (streaming services, gym memberships, etc.) and cancel any that you no longer use or need. If you are not ready to cut them entirely, consider downgrading to cheaper plans. This can free up funds for more important financial goals or savings.

Continued on page 9...

Track Your Spending and Set Clear Limits

Start by tracking every expense, no matter how small, for one month. Use an app or spreadsheet to categorize your expenses such as groceries, entertainment, bills, etc. At the end of the month, look for places where you can cut back. For the new year, set specific limits for each category, and work hard to stick to those limits. This helps in identifying unnecessary costs and redirects money to savings.

How to write a LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcomed. Three important criteria: no foul language, do no harm to an individual, must be "signed" by the author. Short and succinct is better - under 300 words if possible. Letters may be edited for length.

email your letter to copydesk@alleynews.org no later than the 12th of the month, by 5pm SHARP.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Is there something going on in Phillips that should be noted in *the alley*?

Let us know all about it by sending your sentences and/or photographs to:

copydesk@alleynews.org



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Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery

By SUE HUNTER WEIR
231ST IN A SERIES

Character Supersedes Illiteracy

Woodford Anderson, Civil War Veteran and Freedom Seeker

Woodford Anderson was not a young man when he ran towards freedom. He was enslaved when he was born near Burlington, Kentucky, on March 10, 1820. When he was 20 years old, he was sold to George Curtley. Curtley, a captain in the Confederate Army, took Anderson to Waverly, Missouri, where Anderson served as a cook. In the fall of 1862, when he was 42 years old, Anderson left Curtley and met up with Union Army soldiers. In a deposition that is included in his 60-page pension file, he said, "I was just following the Union Army as a contraband."

In May of 1863, Anderson was sent to Fort Snelling in Minnesota. Although he had not formally enlisted at that point, he was sent on Sibley's expedition to the West where he served as a cook for the 1st Minnesota Mounted Rangers. On March 10, 1864, after he returned to Fort Snelling, he formally enlisted as a private in Company D of the U.S. Colored Troops.

His unit was sent to Nashville, but he was sick most of the time. On June 1, 1865, he was discharged for disability because he suffered from rheumatism and chronic diarrhea. Michael Brady, a fellow soldier, recalled seeing Anderson on the day that he received his discharge: "He had no coat or vest, but he had a paper in his hand and carried a cane. I asked him where he was going, and he said he had just been discharged, and he was going to St. Paul. "The men had not been paid so Anderson hoped to work his way North on a boat. The disabilities that ended his military service would continue to plague him for the rest of his life.

Initially, he was unaware of the problem with his military records, most likely because he could not read or write. As he put it, he always signed papers with his mark (an "X"). Once he learned about the problem, he sought to have it corrected.



PHOTOS: TIM MCCALL



Woodford Anderson's old marker, top, and his new repaired marker, below.

.....
Although he undoubtedly arrived in Minnesota several years earlier, Anderson was first listed in the Minneapolis City Directory in 1874. He was employed as a barber, the occupation that he held for most of his working life. He married three times, but each of those marriages ended in divorce.

By 1890, his health had deteriorated. He had heart trouble, difficulty breathing, and was losing his sight. He never sought medical treatment but, instead, treated himself with patent medicines and liniments. He qualified for a disability pension under the recently passed Dependent and Disabilities Act. Prior to the passage of that Act, veterans had to prove that their disability was caused by their military service. The new Act required only that

Continued on page 7...

A Correction of Great Importance

From *the alley*

The alley has been deeply honored to feature Sue Hunter Weir's "Tales from Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery" column for 231 issues. Her extensive research into those buried in Minneapolis' oldest Cemetery has revealed to readers hundreds of early residents who lived in and shaped our city.

Among those folks buried are an unknown number of early African Americans who lived in Minneapolis, most unnamed and in unmarked graves. They include those who escaped slavery or who helped the freedom seekers escape, and those who served in the Civil War. Sue has been working with Elyse Hill of Hill Research to tell the stories of **all** the African Americans buried in the Cemetery. The January issue of *the alley* highlighted one such person: Hester Patterson, a freedom seeker, whose story is at once both inspiring and horrifying.

And the correction? Hester's last name was misspelled in print. The correct spelling of someone's name is vital in historical records, particularly for a population whose humanity has long been cruelly repressed. Misspelling Hester's name feels especially egregious to us for that reason. And we are truly sorry.

Consequences of War on Russian-Speaking Community

Part 3 of 4

By ALENA DOBRIAKOVA, Community Journalist-In-Training

EDITOR'S NOTE - Due to the original length of the article and gravity of the topic being discussed, we have chosen to break the story up into smaller segments to publish through the next 4 months or so. You can read the earlier segments on the alley's website.

War brings destruction, loss of loved ones, and cultural conflicts between people who were once like one family. In the context of the ongoing war, the internal experiences of Russian-speaking immigrants have become more acute. These people are stuck between cultures, facing feelings of guilt, fear, and isolation.

I interviewed Russian and Ukrainian immigrants to explore how their lives have changed since the war began. The main focus of the interview is on the consequences of the conflict in an emotional, social and cultural sense. Including internal conflict of identity, attitudes toward the dynamics of the society in which we live at the moment, and how

Continued on page 10...

Does your organization have an important event or new program the Community needs to know about?

Contact businessmanager@alleynews.org to find out what it might cost to provide you space in the alley.

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"When the great newspapers don't say much, see what the little independent ones say."

-Wendell Phillips





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CUHCC planning a new building on current property

Franklin Avenue will see another major improvement as the University of Minnesota is designing a new building for the Community-University Health Care Center (CUHCC), located at 2001 Bloomington Avenue.

The new two-story building—scheduled to open in 2027—will allow CUHCC to serve more patients, add more services and enhance its professional training programs for future health professionals. “Our patients deserve a state-of-the art, welcoming environment that supports their health and healing,” says Roli Dwivedi, MD, the clinic’s CEO. The design aims to accomplish this through better integration of medical and mental health service, bigger exam rooms, better flow throughout the clinic, and space for programs and community gatherings.

To maintain patients’ access to CUHCC’s medical, dental and behavioral health services, the current building will remain fully operational while the new building is constructed (starting early 2026) in CUHCC’s current parking lot. Once the new building is complete, UMN will demolish the current building and create a parking lot on the building’s southside.

CUHCC has served the Phillips Community since 1958. It annually provides medical, dental, mental health, and social services to nearly 11,000 patients who represent the cultural, racial and economic diversity of the neighborhood. As a community clinic that provides care to all who seek it, CUHCC has been a cornerstone of high-quality, patient-centered care for immigrants, refugees and people with limited income.

In November 2024, CUHCC invited neighborhood residents and representatives from local businesses and community organizations to open house events to provide input on ways the new facility can serve their healthcare needs and enhance the community. Future community input opportunities will be posted in the Alley Events Calendar and on CUHCC’s website. *Information provided by Lara Pratt*

Produce Distribution at CUHCC

CUHCC will offer a fresh food distribution on Wednesday, February 19th, from 2:00-4:00 PM in the south parking lot. Stop by to pick up free, pre-packaged boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables for you and your family.



Preliminary design of CUHCC's new Building (facing East along Franklin Avenue)

YouthLine Mission

The Phillips Community Center is one of 12 Minneapolis Recreation Centers that sponsor YouthLine. YouthLine is a year-round program for ages 12 - 17, that provides mentorship, leadership development, Life skills learning, health and wellness education, outdoor adventure opportunities, and recreation programs. Contact Ahmed at the PCC for more information.

Our Saviour's Shelter

Our Saviour's Shelter has moved to the old Ebenezer Health Center at 2545 Portland during their construction. They are looking for volunteers and in-kind donations for their daily programs. You can contact Wateen at Volunteer@oscs-mn.org or go to our website for more information.

Ventura Village News

Our February General Membership meeting will be Wednesday, February 12th, at 7 PM. Our committees meet Thursday, February 27th at 5:30pm. Both meetings are in person at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue and on Zoom (link available on our website)

**Make a difference!
Become a member
Join our Board
Go to venturavillage.org
for more information.**

How Warm is Your Living Space? MN's Cold Weather Rule & You



Minnesota has a statewide minimum heat requirement renter/landlord law: **The Cold Weather Rule**. This law requires landlords to “supply or furnish heat at a **minimum temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit from October 1 through April 30**, unless a utility company requires and instructs the heat to be reduced.”

(MN Statute 504B.161 Subd. 1(a)(5))

If you are a renter and your apartment is below 68 degrees, you can send a 14-day repair letter to your landlord using HOME Line’s form on their website.

To learn more about tenant rights and get connected with your neighbors, reach out to your local neighborhood organization at housing@phillipswest.org.

How to Keep Track of Your Apartment's Heat

- Use a digital, analog, or meat thermometer to measure the ambient temperature (wall-attached & body thermometers won't work!).
- Record the temperature at least 3 feet away from all walls, going from room to room.
- Keep track of the date, time, and what room it was recorded in. You can also log the outside temperature for comparison.



For more information, see HOME Line’s webinar on heating rental properties in Minnesota.

Scan the QR Code or go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/wf7arymj>

If you are a renter in Minnesota and have questions about this law, form letters, or other questions about your tenancy, please contact HOME Line’s free and confidential renter hotline: 612-728-5767 or by email at <https://homelinemn.org/e-mail-an-attorney/>.

If you are a homeowner or renter and you need assistance with heating costs, call your energy provider to request a payment plan under the Cold Weather Rule, or call the Energy Assistance Program at 952-930-3541. If you have received a shutoff notice from your utility company, **your heat cannot be turned off** as long as you’re in contact with them about a payment plan.

If you are a homeowner, landlord, or renter and you want to learn how to make your home more energy efficient take action at www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/take-action.

Peace House Community - A Place to Belong

Your Place in the World

By MARTI MALTBY

I've recently been reading various autobiographies. I started with Clint Malarchuk's *The Crazy Game*, and am now working my way through *What Does This Button Do?* By Bruce Dickenson and *My Effin' Life* by Geddy Lee. Malarchuk was a goalie in the National Hockey League who almost died on ice during a game after a teammate's skate sliced his throat. Dickenson and Lee are singers with Iron Maiden and Rush respectively.

Of the three, I have to rate Lee's book above the others, although they all have their strong points. *My Effin' Life* stands apart from the others because of Lee's sense of history, and his understanding of where he fits into the world. Although he is telling his story, he makes sure to ground it in the world around him.

He lays the groundwork in the first sentence, where he provides his birth name. I have known since I was a teenager that Geddy's real name was Gary Lee Wienrib, but it turns out I was wrong. Gary Lee Wienrib was, in fact, his third or fourth name (even Geddy admits to being confused at times about following his name's evolution), with his birth name being Gershon Elizer Weinrib. His parents were Jewish Holocaust survivors from Poland, but he was born in Canada. Between Jewish naming traditions, emigration to a land with a different language and alphabet, immigration officials who anglicized names, his mother's confusion about which child received which middle

name, friends misunderstanding his mother's heavy accent, and his decision regarding his stage name (which later became his legal name), his name constantly evolved. Lee establishes all of this in the first chapter, which spans about ten pages. In short, he uses his name to introduce not only himself, but his family, his heritage, and the historical situation that will give the reader the context to understand all that comes afterwards.

As good as *The Crazy Game* and *What Does This Button Do?* are, neither of them can address their world in the same way.

I wonder how many people are able to see themselves as Lee sees himself. While he tells the story of Geedy Lee, he knows that he is not the center of anything. In our world of self-promotion and social media followers, it seems that many people are fixated on how the world sees them, instead of the other way around.

A lack of consideration for others, whether through dangerous driving, answering your phone during a movie, or tossing trash on the ground, communicates a lot about the degree of self-centeredness one practices.



Marti Maltby

Even slogans that are meant to make us healthier, such as "My mistakes do not define me", and "Boundaries are healthy and do not require explanation", ignore the fact that we exist in a world of other people who are affected by our mistakes and our boundaries. Assuming that what we do is our own business and no one else's is naïve at best and narcissistic at worst.

I know the world is complicated, and we can never understand all the results of our decisions, but I hope we can grasp the simple concept that we have a place in the world, and it isn't at the center.

Marti Maltby is an avid cyclist, Director at Peace House Community, and an obnoxiously proud Canadian.

Murals, cont.

Continued from page 1...

Cadex Herrera

Cadex Herrera is an internationally acclaimed artist known for his vibrant murals and social justice-themed artwork. Originally from Belize, Herrera gained worldwide recognition as one of the artists behind the iconic George Floyd mural in Minneapolis. His work often explores themes of identity, resilience, and community, making him a perfect fit for this project.

Geno Okok

Geno Okok is a Nigerian-born artist whose dynamic portraits and vibrant use of color capture the essence of his subjects. Okok's work reflects his passion for storytelling and his commitment to uplifting underrepresented voices. His murals can be found across the Twin Cities, each one a testament to his artistic vision and cultural heritage.

Constanza Carballo

Constanza Carballo is a multidisciplinary artist originally from Argentina, now based in Minneapolis. Her work often incorporates elements of nature and abstract design, blending organic forms with bold, geometric patterns. Carballo's murals are celebrated for their ability to transform public spaces into immersive artistic experiences.

Melodee Strong

Melodee Strong is a Minneapolis-based artist and educator with a passion for empowering communities through art. Her murals often highlight themes of diversity, inclusion, and social justice. Strong's bold, illustrative style brings a unique energy to her work, making her a standout in the Twin Cities art scene.

Natalie Shugailo

Natalie Shugailo is a greater Chicago-based artist specializing in intricate, nature-inspired designs that draw from her Ukrainian heritage. Her work often features detailed patterns and motifs that celebrate cultural traditions while embracing modern aesthetics. Shugailo's murals are known for their meticulous craftsmanship and timeless beauty.

A Celebration of Community and Creativity

The Midtown Greenway Cultural Mural Project is an effort to enhance the urban landscape via public art, and celebrate the beauty and diversity of the cultural communities who live, work, and play alongside the trail.

The artists will use a variety of mediums, with a focus on aerosol art, as well as brushwork and other techniques to bring their visions to life.

Each artist will bring their unique perspective and style to the trail, creating a cohesive yet diverse collection of murals that reflect the spirit of the Greenway and the people who use it. These murals will join the existing murals and sculptures already in the Midtown Greenway, creating the nation's best cultural bikeway.

"We're thrilled to work with such an incredible group of artists," said Soren Jensen, project coordinator and Midtown Greenway Coalition executive director. "These murals will not only beautify the Greenway, but celebrate the cultural diversity that makes our community so great, and bring even more people to the trail."

The murals are expected to be installed by June 2025. Stay tuned for updates and unveiling events! For more information, please contact Soren Jensen at 612-879-0105 or soren@midtowngreenway.org.

About the Midtown Greenway

The Midtown Greenway is a 5.5-mile urban bike trail in south Minneapolis, widely regarded as the nation's best urban bike trail. With its dedicated lanes for cyclists and pedestrians, the Greenway serves as both a vital transportation corridor and a vibrant public space.

About the Midtown Greenway Coalition

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is the nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Midtown Greenway as a community asset. The Coalition has played a pivotal role in advocating for the trail's development and maintenance, organizing community events, installing gardens, enhancing safety, and fostering public art projects. Their mission is to ensure that the Greenway remains a safe, beautiful, and accessible space for all.



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FEBRUARY EVENTS

Vibrant Traditions: Scandinavian Weaving in the Midwest Norway House

913 E Franklin Avenue
Through April 6
Free

Experience the rich legacy of Scandinavian weaving traditions as they are maintained here in the Midwest. *Vibrant Traditions* celebrates nearly 30 years of collaboration, friendship, and shared expertise within the Scandinavian Weavers Study Group of the Weavers Guild of Minnesota, and showcases the artistry, history, and innovation of both traditional and contemporary weavings crafted using Scandinavian techniques. For gallery hours and visitor information, visit norwayhouse.org.

Greenway Mural Pop Up Design Event

Saturdays, February 1 & 8
12 - 3 PM
Midtown Global Market
Free

Want to help design artwork for the Greenway? Bring your creativity to Midtown Global Market the first two Saturdays in February. Your input will inform the design for a new Greenway mural being created by local artist Melodee Strong! No previous experience is necessary. This is a family friendly event, all ages and abilities are welcome!

Better Things 5x5 Reading Event and Open Mic

Tuesday, February 4
7 PM

Moon Palace Books

3032 Minnehaha Avenue
Free

Join hosts Erin Sharkey and Louise Waakaa'igan at Moon Palace Books for a series of short readings by five fantastic writers: Carolyn Holbrook, Louise Waakaa'igan, Marlin M. Jenkins, Rachel Moritz, and Ty Chapman.

The event is sponsored by ReEntry Lab, which works to connect writers and other artists leaving incarceration to a community that's ready to receive them. Learn more about them at reentrylab.org. Please note that masks are required at Moon Palace Books!

FANS Scholars High School Student Career Fair

Wednesday, February 5
4:30 - 6 PM

Brian Coyle Center

420 15th Avenue S
Free

High school students, do you want to learn more about careers, job opportunities and education paths? Do you want to connect with schools, training programs, and employers? Whether you have a specific future in mind, or just want to explore the possibilities, Pillsbury United Community's Fans Scholars Career Fair is

a good place to start! Dinner and raffle prizes will be provided; please note, the career fair is for high school students only. Send questions to JulieG@pillsburyunited.org.

Wish Work Winter Puppet Series

Saturdays, February 8 & 15
10:30 - 11:30 AM

Open Eye Theatre

506 E 24th Street

Suggested donation \$5 - \$10
Hinterhands Puppet Company's winter series brings more puppetry delight to young audiences this month with *Landsick* and *Ark 2.0*, by Monica Rojas and Nicole Rojas-Oltmanns (February 8), and *The Box King*, by Seth Eberle (February 15). The donation is a suggested amount, no one will be turned away for lack of funds! Go to hinterhands.com for details on the programs.

March for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives

Friday, February 14
11AM - 2PM

Minneapolis American Indian Center

1530 E Franklin Avenue
Free

March for justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Boys, LGBTQI+, Two Spirit and Transgender Relatives. Everyone is welcome to participate. Attendees are asked to WEAR RED! Speakers to be announced. Visit maicnet.org or the Minneapolis American Indian Center facebook page for updates.

CUHCC Free Fruit and Veggie Distribution

Wednesday, February 19
2 - 4 PM

Community-University Health Care Center

2001 Bloomington Ave
Free

Looking for healthy food? CUHCC community members and patients can pick up pre-packaged boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables on Wednesday, February 19th, from 2-4 pm. Come to the South parking lot for pickup!

In Memoriam: Residents of Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery

Through 2025

Hennepin History Museum

2303 3rd Avenue S
Pay What You Can

The focus of this exhibit at the Hennepin County Historical Society is Phillips' own historic Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery. *In Memoriam* shines a light on individuals buried in the cemetery and asks what a cemetery can tell us about ourselves and the history we share with the deceased. For museum hours, visit hennepin-history.org.



Earth Day march on April 22, 2023. A gathering celebrating the first anniversary of the successful fight for community stewardship of the contaminated Roof Depot site will be held on February 23rd.

Anniversary of Community Victory at the Roof Depot Site

Sunday, February 23
1 - 4 PM

Roof Depot Warehouse grounds

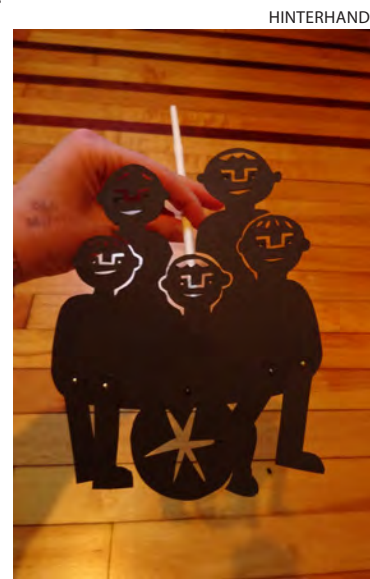
E 27th Street @ Longfellow Avenue
Free

Join community members outside the Roof Depot warehouse at the intersection of Longfellow Avenue and E 27th Street to celebrate community resistance and resilience. More details to come on the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute facebook page!

Smart Wars: Many Shields

February 20 - April 5
All My Relations Arts
1414 E Franklin Avenue
Free

Multimedia "funktivist" Rory Wakemup leverages the familiar story of Star Wars to entertain-



From *Landsick*, a performance on February 8th with Hinterhands Puppet Company.

ingly challenge beliefs surrounding the forces of good and evil and whether only a select few can achieve true "balance" with the universe. A tongue-in-cheek exploration of culture vs contro-



"Hordaland Teppe," by Lisa Torvik, from the exhibit *Vibrant Traditions: Scandinavian Weaving in the Midwest* at Norway House through April 6.

versy, Wakemup's art subverts and amuses while commenting on social, political, and climate issues. For hours and additional programming, go to allmyrelationsarts.org.

EPNI What's new with the East Phillips Urban Farm Project this month?



Community event with Will Allen

- Find EPNI's Outreach Team out in the community! We'll have a booth at the Minneapolis Community Connections Conference, which is free and open to the public, on February 8th, from 9am-4pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center.
- As we prepare for site acquisition in September, we are ramping up our fundraising efforts! Join the fundraising volunteer team every Monday at 6pm. Reach out to daniel@epnifarm.org for the zoom link.
- Our outdoor farm team has grown to include two new Food Justice Historians and two Urban Farm Community Liaisons.

Come dream and build a new future for the Roof Depot site with us! Follow along and get in touch online at linktr.ee/epnifarm.

Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic at ASI Creates Community & Decreases Waste

Community Increased:

Seventy-eight Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic volunteers attempted to repair 255 household items brought by 194 visitors. Repairs were completed on 218 items. Some are still in progress. The Fix-It Clinic was held at the American Swedish Institute Jan. 12th. The photo shows work in progress at the Larson Auditorium alongside the historic Turnblad mansion at 2600 Park Avenue, now the American Swedish Institute (ASI). (NOTE: ASI is one of five buildings in the Phillips Community on the National Registry of Historic Places).



HENNEPIN COUNTY

Waste Decreased:

That was 1,396 pounds diverted from the trash, and an 85 percent repair rate. These Hennepin County Fix-It Clinics are provided as a free service to keep items out of the waste stream. They occur once each month at various locations. Learn more at hennepin.us/fixitclinic.

Appreciation Kudos:

- "I love it! Great energy at the event."
- "Whoever came up with the idea of a Fix-It Clinic is BRILLIANT!"
- "I've been able to fix small holes in clothes myself after attending my first Fix-It Clinic and being taught basic sewing techniques. Makes me SO happy to be able to do it myself and have it fixed/not have to throw it away. So, THANK YOU"
- "Y'all are amazing! Had so much fun and enjoyed learning a new skill!"
- "The "fixers" were wonderful. I felt very comfortable with Jackson and Bill. They gave just the right amount of instruction to do on my own and help."
- "Great service. Enjoyed working with Harold!!!"
- "This was awesome! It was really cool to be a part of. Thank you!!"
- "Fabulous experience!"
- "Such a great service with extremely knowledgeable/friendly fixers!"
- "I love this. It seems like the volunteers are enjoying it, too."
- "Jordan and Jess were awesome!"
- "Such friendly people and clear guidelines. Thank you."
- "Wonderful! Renews my faith in humanity!"
- "LOVE IT!! Keep it going."
- "We are a reuse recycle fix it family, but a little bit of help goes a long way"
- "I came, I learned, I fixed it."
- "Awesome activity, thankfully this is community organized!!"
- "Thank you for providing this service."
- "I was pleasantly surprised!"
- "Bob was great. Thank you for hosting this!"
- "LOVED THIS SOOOOO MUCH!!!"
- "Great appreciation!"
- "Incredible experience! Thank you!"

*see page 10
for a book
recommendation on
repair!*

Tales, cont.

Continued from page 3...

a soldier had served for 90 days, had been honorably discharged, and was disabled, even if his disability was not war related, Claims could still be denied if the disability was caused by "vicious habits." Anderson's clearly were not. Horace Carlisle, a prominent member of Minneapolis' African-American community and the brother-in-law of John Cheatham, Minneapolis' first Black firefighter, was one of those who testified on Anderson's behalf. The other was John Thomas. They both described Anderson as a man of good moral character. Still, getting his application approved was not an easy task.

He first had to establish that he was who he said he was. Even though he had never gone by any name other than Woodford Anderson, his military records are under Woodruff Annison. He also was variously referred to as Woodruff Anderson and Woodford Annison. Four variations for the same man. Initially, he was unaware of the problem with his military records, most likely because he could not read or write. As he put it, he always signed papers with his mark (an "X"). Once he learned about the problem, he sought to have it corrected.

A special examiner was assigned to sort things out. He believed Anderson's claim, describing him as a man "having a good memory and [seeming] intelligent" whose "reputation for the truth was fair." He took depositions from two of Anderson's fellow soldiers, who swore that they had always known him as Woodford Anderson. One of those men was Amos Watkins, an African-American Civil War veteran, who is also buried in the Cemetery. Watkins, like Anderson, was a barber and had employed him off and on over a period of many years, even when Anderson was too sick to work.

Anderson's 1890 request for a pension was approved after a ten-month wait. He was awarded \$6.00 a month (about \$208

in today's dollars). In 1897, as he became increasingly disabled, he requested an increase and was granted \$8.00 a month. On December 31, 1907, Anderson's pension was increased to \$12.00 a month. He died a little over six months later.

Woodford Anderson died on June 19, 1908, at the age of 88 years, three months and nine days. The official cause of death was recorded as valvular heart disease. A military marker bearing the name Woodford Annison was placed on his grave in the late 1930s. At some point, that marker broke. We replaced it in 2019.. His new marker correctly shows his name as Woodford Anderson.

Sue Hunter Weir is chair of Friends of the Cemetery, an organization dedicated to preserving and maintaining Minneapolis Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery. She has lived in Phillips for almost 50 years and loves living in such a historic community.



**Join the
Board of Alley
Communications**


and help other volunteers
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"to inform and engage the
Phillips Community".

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The Board of Alley Communications has a seat at the table for YOU!

the alley newspaper is moving into its 50th year! While that is amazing news, the work of lifting the many voices of the Phillips Community to represent their own narratives needs to happen beyond the confines of a newspaper. There are so many more ways to communicate, deliberate, provoke and inform. Be a leader of that change and growth by joining the board of Alley Communications.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Attendance of one monthly 90 minute meeting
- Volunteer your available time to work on an activity you are passionate about
- Believe in collaborative governance
- Represent your cultural community and/or your people
- Cultivate new community-driven communication strategies with others

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Build your leadership skills within collective space
- Try on new ideas or bring them to fruition
- Build your resume



Want to talk more?
Email Susan at susanangust@gmail.com to set a time to talk together!

PaintCare Celebrates 10 Years of Paint Stewardship in Minnesota

By PAINTCARE



JAKE RYAN

Program Highlights

Since its launch in 2014, the Minnesota program has established 267 year-round drop-off sites and collected and processed more than 9.5 million gallons of architectural paint. In 2023, more than 98% of Minnesota residents lived within 15 miles of a drop-off site, an increase from 2022.

“The growth and success of PaintCare in Minnesota over the past decade is a testament to the collective efforts of local businesses, communities, and retailers who have supported the paint recycling program,” says Jacob Saffert, Minnesota Program Manager at PaintCare. “Their voluntary participation has made it easy and convenient for Minnesota residents to dispose of leftover paint responsibly, contributing to environmental sustainability.”

About PaintCare

PaintCare works with its program partners in Minnesota to

Continued on page 11...

PaintCare is celebrating ten years of helping Minnesotans recycle leftover paint through its Minnesota paint stewardship program. Minnesota became the sixth state to establish a statewide PaintCare program in November 2014, following the May 2013 passage of a paint stewardship law by Governor Mark Dayton. PaintCare, a nonprofit organization created by paint companies, makes it easy to recycle leftover paint, stain, and varnish by providing convenient paint drop-off locations at local paint and hardware stores and government facilities.

In honor of its 10th anniversary and America Recycles Day on November 15, PaintCare has launched an “All-in Challenge” for Minnesotans to help make a difference. Help us celebrate a decade of responsible paint disposal by recycling your leftover paint. Together, we can make a positive impact on our environment and ensure a sustainable future. To find a drop-off site near you, visit www.paintcare.org/MN.

A New Chapter for the Somali Museum of Minnesota

By LAURA HULSCHER

On December 27th the Somali Museum hosted a joyous community celebration marking its move to a new larger space. After 11 years just 6 blocks west at the Plaza Verde building, its new location at the Midtown Exchange will provide more space to display its growing collection. Meanwhile, the Museum continues to work towards the long-term goal of a permanent building of its own.

The celebration was a bright spot during the darkest week of the year. Somali food, dance, music, and a display of bags made by local Somali weavers were highlights. There was also a chance to view the new exhibits and interpretive displays exploring the history and culture of the Somali people and the Minnesota Somali community.

Speaking at the celebration, founder Osman Ali emphasized that the 11-year-old Somali Museum has always been much more than just a gallery. It began cultural programming early on with intergenerational finger weaving workshops held at different sites in the community. The workshops were led by women experts in traditional techniques;



LAURA HULSCHER

they were a big success and continue to this day. Another early project was the founding of the Somali Dance Troupe, which continues to draw youth from across the state to learn and perform Somali dance. Additional programs include storytelling, publication of a teaching book, and workshops on Somali culture on location at schools, government agencies, and other organizations. The Museum has also collaborated with Soomaal House, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Minnesota Historical Society, and others on cultural events that have reached broad and diverse audiences. Osman notes with pride that the Museum is recognized

worldwide as a cultural center by the Somali diaspora.

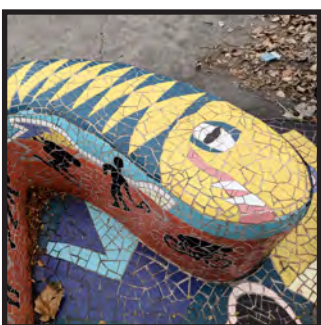
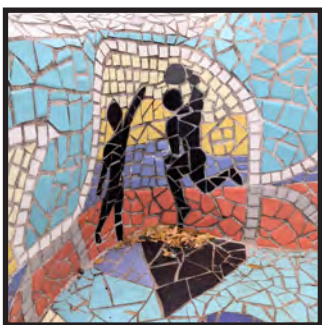
In just a decade, the Somali museum has become strongly rooted in our community. It is clearly a labor of love that is cherished by many. No doubt it will continue to grow and flourish for years to come.

The Somali Museum is located at 2925 Chicago Avenue (Greenway basement level) and is open Thursday through Sunday from 11-5. For more information, visit somalimuseum.org or the Somali Museum facebook page.

THRONES' EYE VIEW

Farewell to Touchstone Plaza

PHOTOS BY LAURA HULSCHER



PART I: THE NORTH BENCH

The city has announced that it is dismantling Touchstone Plaza due to deterioration and safety concerns. Also known as “The Thrones,” this Phillips landmark sits at the northeast corner of the park, at the intersection of Franklin and Chicago. Its architectural sculptures were the product of a multi-year collaboration between the late artist Rafala Green, community members, and more than 80 local youth employed by the project in the 1990s. “Thrones” is a reference to a poem by Louis Alemayehu mounted on a plaque near the entrance.

As a goodbye, **the alley** will be featuring close up photos of each of the Plaza’s sculptural elements in upcoming months.

Finances, cont.

Continued from page 2...

Set Up a Debt Repayment Plan

If you have outstanding debts, resolve to create a clear plan for paying them down. Use the debt snowball method (paying off the smallest balance first) or the avalanche method (tackling high-interest debts first). Set a target for when you would like to be debt-free and break down the necessary monthly payments to reach that goal, then stick to it.

By following through on these resolutions, you will have a more organized approach to saving money and managing your finances.

Visit sunrisebanks.com/financial-wellness-tools to see all tools available to help you reach your money goals.

Jean Chalifoux Kiely is the Director of Consumer Banking at Sunrise Banks. Member FDIC.

Phillips
Community
Newspaper



the alley



Phillips Gateway Project building community with art

by Craig Wood

If you're walking past the corner of Franklin and Chicago in July and notice an arch looming out of Peavey Park, rest assured that it's not the encroaching tentacle of a fast food restaurant. It will be a beckoning symbol from the Phillips Gateway Project inviting you to relish some local culture.

The Gateway Project was originally slated for completing by June 30 but that deadline has been extended. Notice of the new completion date will be announced. It should be quite a community event.

By the time artist Rafala Green moved to the Twin Cities from New York she had been through three or four social revolutions and changed diapers for seven children. She came to Minnesota looking for work, and she found it. Her latest job is the Phillips Gateway project. Green's proposal was chosen to transform what was once a liquor store parking lot of broken bottles, beer cans and cigarette butts into community-friendly art that everyone could enjoy.

If this sounds like a tall order, remember we're dealing with someone who's been active in the arts community for 30



PHOTO BY NANCY CONROY

Four Winds School students reviewed the artwork they created for the Phillips Gateway Project.

years. Her design makes sense for the neighborhood. Fanning out from the corner of Franklin and Chicago will be five triangular walkways that funnel into the Gateway Arch. These five paths will be laden with cultural-specific icons to visually represent Native American, African, Asian, European and Latin American cultures. The images

and symbols used will be transposed from student drawings at nearby Four Winds School into stone mosaics and placed into the walkways by cultural mentors like Robert Des Jarlait, Tou Vang, Anna Stanley, Leo Lara and many others. Seven hundred neighborhood children contributed drawings under the Pathway Project which was co-

ordinated by Marilyn Lindstrom in a collaboration with Rafala Green and Four Winds art teacher Katy O'Brien.

On June 10, the project celebrated the creative efforts of students from Four Winds School at the Phillips Gateway site in Peavey Park. The stu-

Gateway/ page 2



From the Archives

Vol. 18, No. 7: July 1993

32 Years Ago...

Phillips Gateway Project Building Community With Art

2/the alley

Gateway Project building community through art

Continued from page 1

students' artwork, which is soon to be traced by older artists into park walkways and decorated with mosaic stones, was displayed publicly. Mentors spoke, the Native drum group Wewinding-Ogichidaag sang and played and an NBC camera crew showed up and filmed for a couple hours.

The paths all converge at the arch and break up on the other side into a sunken and relaxing circle of plants and multi-tiered, smooth park benches. The cascading benches which look as though they may have been carved out of canyon walls by a river and softened by wind, are sculptural forms designed by Green.

She wanted comfortable, terraced forms that would encourage talking and still allow seating "for levels of arthritis and levels for underdeveloped legs."

Green said she hopes that her work will be a "real treasure in Minnesota, something that took some money and materials but took a lot of spirit. Basically I'm interested in objects that will reflect the spirit of everyone that had anything to do with the project, this is something nobody can take away from them... ever."

While Green and her crew work on their forms in the parking lot and on the floor of the former Applebaum's on Lake Street, Barb King raises money and community awareness of the project. King is volunteer coordinator for the project. Dozens of artists and volunteers from throughout south

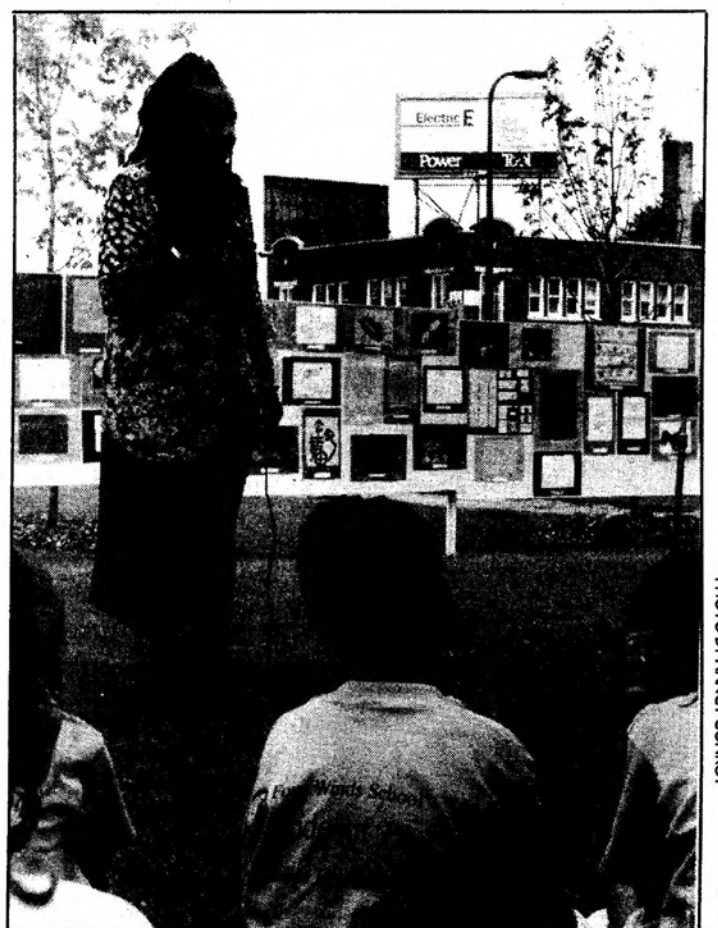


PHOTO BY NANCY CONROY

Gateway Project designer Rafala Green spoke to students from Four Winds School at the opening of their artwork for the project last month.

Minneapolis have donated time. Neighbor children routinely come over for muffins and juice in the morning, and the ones with sad eyes or dirty faces usually go home with a hand-stitched stuffed toy, courtesy of the Applebaum's Art Group.

Already neighborhood voices have been heard a couple hundred miles away. Jane Ross has

been interested in doing something like the gateway project for awhile. She has been driving back and forth from her home in Mountain Lake to check out the project after hearing about the community enthusiasm. She was just awarded a site for a project in Mountain Lake.

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Movie Corner

A Complete Unknown



Drama
Searchlight Pictures

By HOWARD MCQUITTER II

To emulate a famous (or infamous) person on screen or stage is no easy task. When it works it's a beautiful thing and if it doesn't work, it's a waste of time. Many a thespian has done a biopic: Martin Luther King, Julius Oppenheimer, Eleanor Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Adolf Hitler, Queen Elizabeth I and II, and Pope John Paul II, among many others, have been portrayed.

Timothee Chalamet takes on the huge task of playing a young Bob Dylan (1961-1965). It is a marvel in itself capturing the man before anybody knew who he was and when he first made national headlines. For the effort, Chalamet spent months learning and performing up to 40 of Dylan's folk songs. This alone is amazing to say the least. I'm appreciative of the

actor playing Mr. Dylan, formerly known as Robert Zimmerman. Dylan hailed from Hibbing, Minnesota, and was a complete unknown when he arrived in New York City to see his idol Woody Guthrie seriously ill in a hospital. Timothee Chalamet will certainly get an Oscar nomination in a leading role. But I'm also appreciative that Dylan and I are native Minnesotans.

During Dylan's visit to the hospital to see Guthrie there was Pete Seeger, a banjo player engrossed in folk music who took a liking to the young Dylan.

Dylan started out in local nightclubs building up a fan base. At one nightclub where Seeger and Dylan were playing, Dylan met the already accomplished musician and folk singer, Joan Baez.



Howard McQuitter II

A friendship ensued that would become more erotic over time. However, his first girlfriend in the Big Apple was Sylvie Russo. Her real name was Suze Rotolo and at Dylan's request, was left out. She happened to love a man who would soon become a national sensation. As he seemed to be more interested in Baez, Sylvie painfully backed away.

However, the big surprise came on Sunday night, July 25, 1965, at the Newport Folk Festival. Dylan came on stage with a Fender electric guitar, backed up by an amplified rock n' roll band. Not everybody in the crowd appreciated this newfangled look and within minutes boos followed, then objects were thrown at the stage. That

bit of acrimony from the crowd did not deter him from being the legend he would become.

It's not like Bob Dylan hasn't been portrayed in movies before, mostly documentaries from D.A. Pennbaker's *Don't Look Back* (1967) to Martin Scorsese's *No Direction Home* (2005) to Todd Haynes' *I'm Not There* (2007).

What's (strangely) missing from James Mangold's *A Complete Unknown* is a character playing his first real wife Sara Lownds. Dylan's rise to fame simultaneously with the Civil Rights movement, Vietnam War, the second wave of the Women's movement, assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, and the Stonewall riots is reflected in his songs. Chalamet sings some of Dylan's songs like "Blowin' in the Wind" (1962), "Masters of War" (1963), "Like a Rolling Stone"

Howard McQuitter II is a long-time movie critic. He has been reviewing movies for the alley since 2002.

A Complete Unknown



Searchlight Pictures

Cast: Timothee Chalamet (Bob Dylan), Edward Norton (Pete Seeger), Scoot McNairy (Woody Guthrie), Elle Fanning (Sylvie Russo), Monica Barbaro (Joan Baez), Boyd Holbrook (Johnny Cash), Eriq La Salle (Toshi Seeger), Peter Gray Lewis (Frank Lawler), Maya Feldman (Mika Seeger), Dan Fogler (Albert Grossman).

Director: James Mangold (*Walk the Line* [2005], *The Wolverine* [2013], *Ford v Ferrari* [2019]).

Screenwriters: James Mangold, Jay Cocks. **Cinematography:** Phedon Papamichael. **Rated R.** **Running time:** 141 minutes.

War, cont.

Continued from page 3...

people cope with the complexities of war.

To protect the identities of the individuals I interviewed, I have chosen not to use their full names, ensuring their privacy while sharing their experiences. K left Ukraine before the war began, L is a Russian immigrant who came to the U.S. after the war started, G has lived in the U.S. since 2017 and is now a citizen but originally from Ukraine, and A was born in the U.S. but spent most of her life in Russia. Each of them offers a unique perspective on how the war has affected their lives and identities.

How has your Russian-speaking community changed since the war began?

K: There are those with whom we stopped communicating, but I can't say that it was precisely because of the language. It was more of a conflict of sides. For example, a friend from Israel, we stopped communicating with her, respectively, at the beginning of the war, precisely because of political issues, but I can't say that the language was involved. Basically, with everyone, I continue to communicate with someone in Russian, and still with someone in Ukrainian, but it is not a problem.

L: The Russian-speaking community, it seems to me, has split up in new places. Because there were quite tense relations between some Ukrainian-speaking and Russian-speaking Ukrainians. Plus, some Russian-speaking Ukrainians began to speak only in Ukrainian. Which, accordingly, complicated communication. Many beauty masters, photographers, in general, and people who provide services, some of them stopped working with Russian-

speaking people, with people from Russia.

G: Well, I think that it has split into lovers of blood and people who think that this war is useless to anyone. And this applies to both Ukrainians and Russians. And to all people on Earth, so to speak.

A: Here in America, I have Russian-speaking friends and a couple of Ukrainians. Most of my friends are from Russia.

Do you experience difficulties in adapting to life in a new country due to political events in your homeland?

K: In my case, I would not say that the difficulties in adapting to a new life in a new country are somehow connected to political events in the homeland. No, absolutely not. I can't say that it is somehow related to the events in Ukraine at the moment.

L: By the way, there were no difficulties in adapting to a new country. Because all other peoples, except for some Ukrainians, were positively attuned to the Russian-speaking. Americans, Latvians, I don't know, anyone from Europe, everyone was always open and helped. And many Ukrainians, including, by the way.

G: No. I adapted to life in the United States before the war. I don't think that the war influenced my ability to adapt and to join a new society because I was able to do it before the war.

A: No. I continued to do things I used to do before the war. In one of the classes, I talked about Russian manicure. One of the guys asked, aren't you afraid that

in the future people won't come because now there is a situation with the war, like Russian manicure and all that. I said, guys, the nail artists don't fight in the war. So should we let them erase Russia from history?

...Look forward to the next part of this article in the March 2025 edition of *the alley*

Alena Dobriakova is an international student from Russia at St. Catherine University. She has been studying in the U.S. for six years, focusing on her career and academic growth. Alena's research focus is on the cultural and social challenges of immigrants, including the impact of war on identity and issues of media justice.

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Driven to Discover!

Recommendation - a book about repair of all kinds

Repair by Elizabeth V. Spelman

Repair: The Impulse to Restore in a Fragile World is a book by Elizabeth V. Spelman that explores the human tendency to fix things. Spelman is a philosophy professor at Smith College.

ABOUT: "We live in a world constantly in need of repair. Our cars break down. Marriages weaken, friendships sour, ties between nations are rent. Yet we fix things and relationships all the time, without giving these activities much thought. *Repair* is the first book to offer an in-depth exploration of this core aspect of human life."

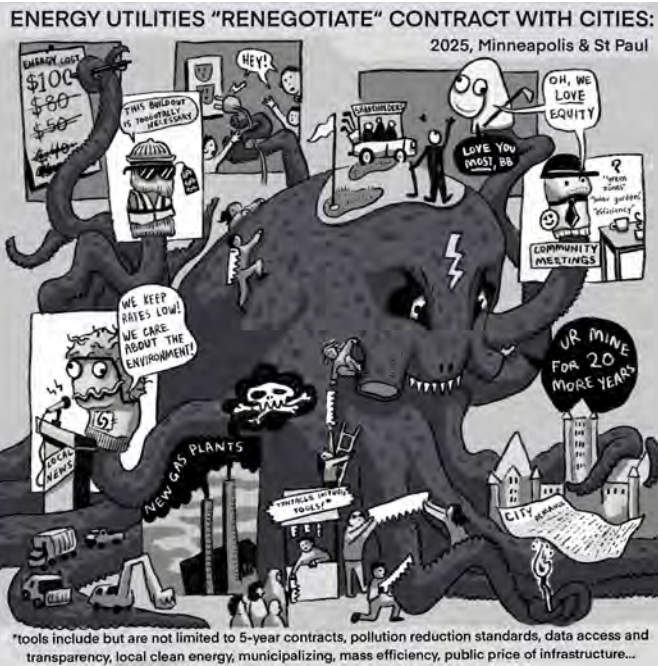
PRAISE: "A new way of seeing the human experience as a constantly inventive effort [at mending] what is broken, choosing not to, or learning to live with what cannot be fixed."

— Martha Minow, author of *Between Vengeance and Forgiveness*

"Whether the focus is a teacup, a relationship, a life or a 50-year-old face, H. reparans is charged with the responsibility of deciding when, where and how the reparative impulse is to be exercised. No one who reads this book will ever again be unaware of that responsibility."

— Barbara Brown Taylor, *Christian Century*

Franchise 2025: Minneapolis (& St. Paul) Negotiate the Future with Its Two Corporate Utilities - early February public hearing!



CHANCI



ANONYMOUS

As utility deals expire, residents seek more climate action from CenterPoint, Xcel

—Sahan Journal



ISHMAM AHMED

South Principal, cont.

Continued from page 1...

selflessness as well, something which he is continually inspired by today.

When he moved to Minneapolis, Amin attended Sanford and later Roosevelt for high school. Amin attended the University of Minnesota for his undergraduate degree, and then graduate school soon after, studying sociology and history before becoming a teacher. Amin went on to teach at his former stomping grounds - Roosevelt. He even became a principal later at Sanford. He also had the unique opportunity of teaching in a jail, working with inmates and students to provide the education they deserve. Amin, a true lover of learning, even plans on going back to school at some point in the future but is still deciding on how he wants to go about that.

Amin is a firm believer that everyone can succeed when they have the right tools to do so. He explains that his academic approach manifests from his belief in the success and prosperity of all students, from all backgrounds. "I think people need different levels of support, but everybody can be academically oriented and achieve academic success," he explains. "It's really about the examples that they have and how we can support them to learn and grow."

As for life outside of South, Amin stays busy with a number of hobbies including powerlifting, coaching debate, and photography, to name a few. "If I'm not working, I'm probably out walking up and down Lake Street taking photos and using film." Amin mentions Gordon Parks as

an inspiration for his own artistry. "There's a book about him called *Choice of Weapons*, so photography was my choice of weapons." The powerlifting side of Amin can squat over 530 lbs, which is more than most can imagine. On top of that, Amin frequently coached debate for a while, devoting many weekends of his time to young debaters.

"Single story" can be defined as a narrative that presents only one perspective, repeated again and again. Amin knows how much "single stories" can negatively impact a community. "In order to challenge a single story, you've gotta create a new one." In Amin's position as principal, there's limits to what he alone can do. He emphasizes that change takes everyone's effort. In order to have a collaborative community that reaches its goals, we need to work together. "As a community of South High folks, we really have to start thinking about what our story is, and what we want to be a summit for," he states. "We, as a community, need to determine what our narrative is." To reach the top, we have to climb to the top. Amin is determined to help lead South on that trek, one step at a time. That is how we will write our story and become South, the Summit.

Lo Norvell is a senior at South High School entering her 3rd year in journalism as editor of the multimedia platform as well as the news section, with hopes to expand the South High podcast, add more engaging interviews, and cover interesting and relevant South topics.

PaintCare, cont.

Continued from page 8...

ensure collected paint is managed according to "highest, best use," meaning that as much paint as possible is reused, recycled back into paint, or put to some other beneficial use. PaintCare works with partners to transport paint from drop-off sites to processing facilities, where it is remixed into recycled-content paint, made available as-is through reuse or giveaway programs, used as fuel, or in other applications.

PaintCare is a nonprofit organization founded in 2009 by paint companies through the American Coatings Association (ACA) to manage leftover paint in states

that have enacted paint stewardship laws. PaintCare sets up drop-off locations for leftover paint, arranges for recycling and proper disposal, and conducts public education. PaintCare also offers free direct pickups to businesses, organizations, and households with 100 gallons or more of leftover paint.

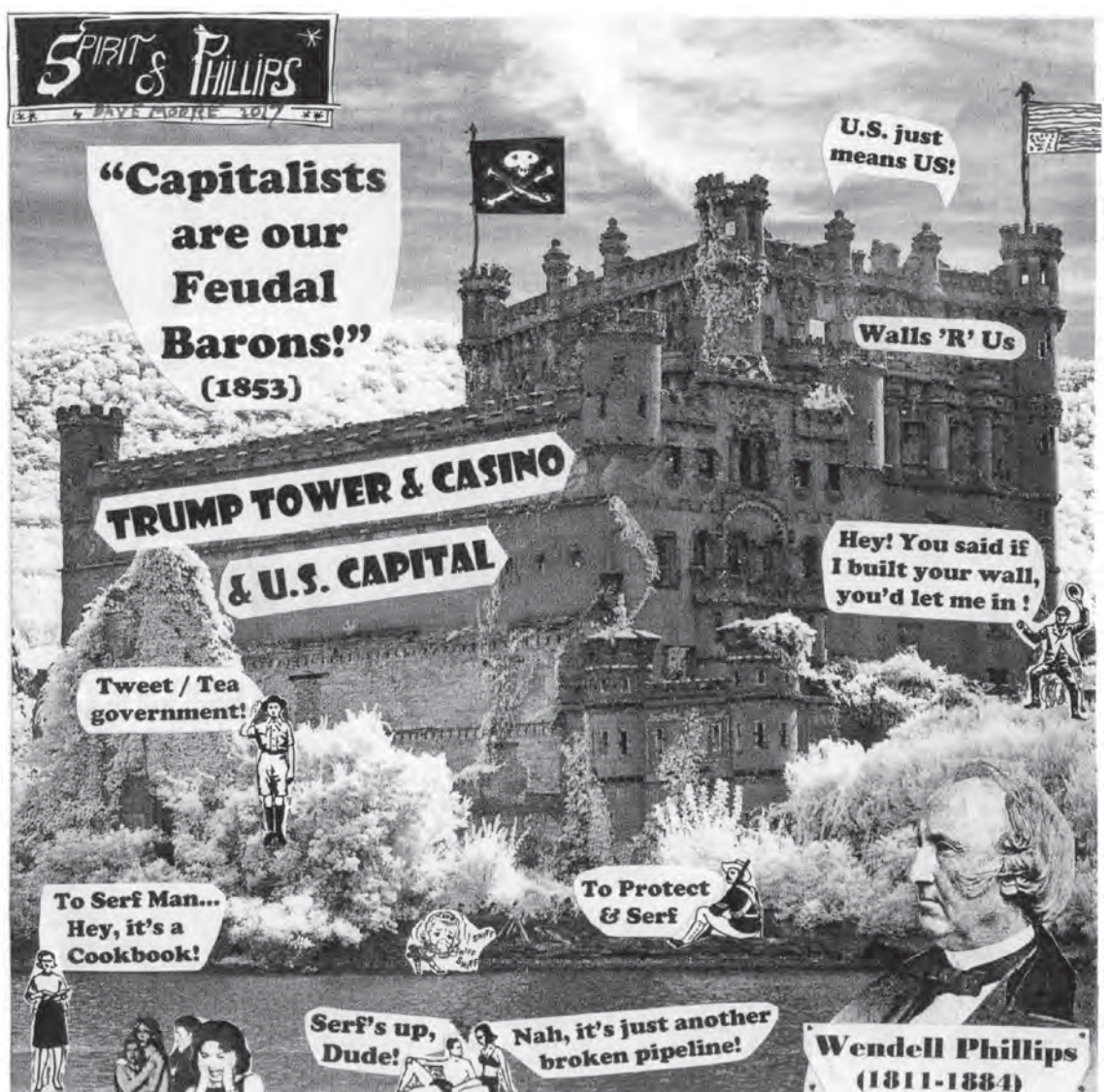
For more information on PaintCare, Minnesota's drop-off sites, or program requirements, please visit www.paintcare.org/Minnesota, or follow @WeRecyclePaint on Facebook and Instagram.

PaintCare has helped households and businesses in Minnesota recycle more than 9.4 million gallons of leftover paint since 2014.

Where do you want to see the alley?



Email businessmanager@alleynews.org to let us know -- or if you are a business that would like to host a bulk drop!



Dave Moore & Linnea Hadaway have lived here since the Reagan 80s and became life partners while originating the cartoon series "Spirit of Phillips."

THIS MONTH IN EAST PHILLIPS & MIDTOWN...

COMMUNITY VOICES CONCERNS OVER PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CARE FACILITY ON 16TH AVE S

On January 9, 2025, the East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) and the Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Association (MPNAI) hosted a community meeting about a proposed room and board facility at 2720 and 2724 16th Ave S. The facility would provide supportive housing for people in recovery who are receiving outpatient treatment elsewhere.

The organization behind the proposal, Pathway to Recovery, describes itself as “dedicated to transforming lives through comprehensive and compassionate care for individuals battling substance abuse disorders.” Founded in late 2024, Pathway to Recovery offers services such as supervised safe-use shelters, social work and case management, legal assistance with expungement, and STI awareness and testing. The founder, Sadik Ali, works as a hospital internal medicine consultant and medical director at Mayo Clinic’s progressive care unit.

Pathway to Recovery has requested an increase in the capacity of the two homes: from 6 to 10 people at 2724 16th Ave S, and from 6 to 14 people at 2720 16th Ave S. The planning commission approved this request, and now it’s up to the City Council to vote on it.

In response to concerns raised by local residents, EPIC and MPNAI organized a meeting and invited Sadik Ali and Jason Lennox (who submitted the land use application) to present on their organization and plans for the properties. Unfortunately, neither of them attended the meeting.

Despite this, ten community members showed up to voice their concerns, ask questions, and discuss next steps. Some of the main concerns raised were about the safety and well-being of vulnerable residents living near the opioid epidemic, potential risks of drug dealers targeting the area, and whether Pathway to Recovery is committed to being a responsible and engaged neighbor. Other concerns included wanting to know about the organization's track record in organizing sober housing, the rules in place to ensure safety and sobriety, and questions about whether Pathway to Recovery is more focused on profit than recovery.

Community members have a list of questions they want Pathway to Recovery to answer, including:

- Are there tenants currently living at the houses? If so, how many?
- What house rules are in place to promote sobriety and safety?
- Is there a house manager?
- Do you have culturally relevant practices in place?
- Do you operate other locations?
- Can you provide statistics and records from other houses you’ve managed?
- Is there an outpatient clinic involved in this project?
- Would increasing the number of residents increase risks or strengthen the community?

EPIC and MPNAI are asking the City Council to postpone their vote until Pathway to Recovery meets with the community to address these concerns and work together on a more thoughtful, collaborative plan moving forward.

If you are interested in attending the next community meeting, sign up for our newsletter by visiting unitephillips.org.



UNITEDPHILLIPS.ORG